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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 95% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 81,867 | Nifty 25,010 | Gold 70,360 | Silver 85,500 | Dollar 83.71 | Euro 90.36 | GBP 107.46

Dry days

CITY PAGE 2

Despite Karnataka as a whole recording 81% surplus rainfall, Bengaluru has recorded the driest July in last 5 years

Forest gobblers

CITY PAGE 6

Based on citizen's complaint, Environment Ministry writes to state govt regarding high number of forest encroachment cases

As per BBMP's forest dept, at least 25 pharma companies in city did not turn up for meeting to discuss benefit-sharing rules as mandated by Biological Diversity Act

WHERE IS NATURE'S SHARE?

Documents on procurement sources, measures taken to conserve resources sought

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Many Bengaluru-based pharmaceutical companies, exploiting biodiversity, are trying to bypass benefit-sharing (ABS) rules mandated by the Biological Diversity (BD) Act 2002.

According to the Forest Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), at least 25 companies in the city that may fall under the ABS scheme have refused to follow the Act.

"We have been trying to ensure these companies implement ABS. In this regard, Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) had received 25 applications for licences to operate. We had summoned these companies to appear before BMC with documents showcasing implementation of the ABS scheme. However, it turned out to be a no-show," said BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP.

Following this, the department has sought advice from the Karnataka Biodiversity Board (KBB) regarding the next course of action.

BBMP officials confirmed that while the manufacturing hubs of these companies are not located in Bengaluru, the city is their marketing hub.

"We had requested them to furnish documents showcasing the procurement

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>
> — BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP.

Pedestrians, your time starts now

At busy Chalukya Circle, all those who cross the road take their lives in their hands and make a dash for it

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Pedestrians at the busy Basaveshwara Circle aka Chalukya Circle are at the mercy of the gods it would seem as the Bengaluru TrafficPolice are not bothered about their safety. The traffic police have been kind enough to put in place a zebra crossing between Palace Road and Millers Road for the benefit of pedestrians but what is the use of it when there is neither a traffic police constable to help and guide them or even a traffic signal or countdown timer.

"I have seen many pedestrians struggling to reach Millers Road from the Palace Road side. There are some schools on Millers Road and installing a traffic signal or a countdown timer would be a great help for students to cross the busy road in the morning and evening. It is frightening to cross the road for me during the peak hours," said Nagasimha G Rao, Director of Child Rights Trust.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Electrifying performance

Experience a spectacular evening of music, energy and entertainment as Iykki Berry, the sensational singer and performer will be gracing the stage with a live performance. Known for her captivating voice and dynamic stage presence, Iykki Berry has garnered a massive following with her chart-topping hits and electrifying performances. **Where: Nexus Koramangala Mall; When: August 2, 5 pm**

02 Rethinking sustainability

Bangalore International Centre with Vikalp Bengaluru presents 'Seed Stories' directed by Chitrangada Choudhury. Seed Stories takes a worm's eye view of how genetically modified cotton seeds and associated chemicals is reshaping a geography and a people steeped in agro-ecological knowledge, and altering their attitudes towards farming, food and ecology. It invites audiences to reflect on the question, 'What is sustainability?' **Where: BIC Venue, Domlur When: August 2, 6:30 pm**

Learning beyond textbooks

The college years present numerous opportunities to gain valuable knowledge and skills. It's essential to capitalise on this period to shape your future and apply what you learn for the benefit of others, said Deepak Saluja, CEO of Bangalore Mirror and Vijaya Karnataka. Speaking at the inauguration of the UG batch for 2024–25 at the BMS College of Commerce and Management, he advised students saying, "Don't try to emulate others; trust in your own abilities and stay committed to your goals." He also highlighted that college education extends beyond textbooks and exam scores. "Participate in extracurricular activities and sports to enhance your overall personality. In today's corporate world, personal skills are crucial," he added. He encouraged students to explore their passions, approach their work with enthusiasm, and persist despite inevitable setbacks. Aviram Sharma, Chairman of BMS College, said, "It's not just about academic learning; you have the chance to explore new ideas and engage in activities outside the classroom. Enjoy your learning journey." — BMB

Rain and shine: City sees driest July in five years

Bengaluru sees 17% deficit in rainfall, while Karnataka sees 81% surplus: Data

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

While some districts in Karnataka are experiencing erratic rainfall, with most rivers in flood and reservoirs nearing full capacity, Bengaluru is facing a contrasting situation with a significant rainfall deficit. July 2024 is reported as the driest July in the last five years for Bengaluru, despite Karnataka as a whole recording an 81% surplus in rainfall. Specifically, Bengaluru saw a 17% shortfall in July, with an average rainfall expectation of 94 mm but only receiving 78 mm.

In June, Bengaluru experienced a substantial increase in rainfall, receiving 138 mm against an average of 71 mm, marking a 93% surplus. However, this surplus was offset by the shortfall in July. Taking into account the cumulative rainfall from June 1 to the end of July, Bengaluru received 235 mm against an expected 169 mm, resulting in a 39% excess largely attributed to June's rainfall, according to data from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDC). Conversely, Karnataka's overall performance was different. The state faced a 17% rainfall deficit in June, with 572 mm received compared to the average of 691 mm. However, in July, the state saw an 81% excess, with 1,798 mm recorded against an average of 993 mm. For the first two months of the monsoon, Karnataka's average rainfall was 1,715 mm, but it received 2,452 mm, resulting in a 43% surplus.

Apart from Bengaluru City, other areas that experienced a 34% rainfall deficit were Bengaluru Rural with 34%, Kolar with 49%, Chikkaballapur with 43%, Koppal with 28%, Raichur with 29%, Yadgir with 32%, and Vijayapura with a 30% shortage. According to the Bengaluru Weather on X portal, "Bengaluru experienced its driest July in five years. Although the month began with promising rainfall, it turned out to be predominantly cloudy. As we approach the break phase, steering winds are expected to drop below 20 knots, which could lead to significant rainfall or thunderstorms for Bengaluru by the second week of August."

25-year record at KRS reservoir

After 25 years, the KRS reservoir has set a new record for outflow. On Wednesday night, the KRS received an inflow of 1,54,460 cusecs of water, while 1,72,161 cusecs were released from the reservoir. This represents the highest outflow recorded in the past 25 years. The previous highest outflow was 2,11,736 cusecs in 1991. Since then, this has been the largest volume of water released from KRS. For comparison, in 2018, the outflow was 1,40,910 cusecs, and in 2019, it was 1,53,719 cusecs.

'Although the month of July began with promising rainfall in Bengaluru, it turned out to be predominantly cloudy'

Weather across Karnataka

In Bengaluru, the weather will be generally cloudy, with light to moderate rain expected. The maximum and minimum temperatures are forecast to be around 27°C and 20°C, respectively, said Dr N Puviarasan, Scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD). "The offshore trough at mean sea level, stretching from South Gujarat to the Kerala coast, continues to persist. Strong wind convergence along Coastal Karnataka and the adjacent Western Ghats districts is expected to result in scattered heavy to very heavy rain and sustained wind speeds of 30–40 km per hour over Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada districts. As a result, isolated heavy to very heavy rain and similar wind speeds are also likely for Shivamogga district. Belagavi, Chikkamagaluru, and Kodagu districts can anticipate isolated heavy rain and sustained wind speeds of 30–40 km/h. Light to moderate rain and sustained wind speeds of 30–40 km/h are expected across many other districts in interior Karnataka."

Nostalgic reunion awaits as Sophia High turns 75 on August 3

With a blend of excitement and reverence, eager to reconnect and relive their shared past, alumni of Sophia High School are making their way back to the place that had once been a second home. On Saturday (August 3), Sophia High School isn't just celebrating its 75 years of existence; it will be rejoicing in the countless lives it has touched, the memories it has forged, and the bonds that have withstood the test of time.

With a rich legacy of academic excellence and community spirit, the school that began with 17 students in 1949 has become a living testament to the impact of education and community, with 2,900 students today. The school hopes this celebration will be the catalyst for building a robust, well-networked community both in India and around the world. With reunion gatherings, staff interactions, a canteen corner, a campus walkthrough, etc, this promises to be a memorable evening filled with nostalgia, camaraderie, and festivities. "Many things have changed over the years, but the warmth remains the same. Many of our alumni are very excited; we already have about 1,600 registrations. We also got a call from a 1964 graduate who just turned 75 in July and is very excited for the event. For those who cannot attend, we have asked them to send in videos. So we've got head girls going way back to 1964 who are sending us videos. We are creating a memory project with all their memories, and we're looking at an archival project. We also plan to build a memory tree and have planned a fun treasure hunt to seek out our batchmates," shares Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, managing partner of Multiversal Advisory LLP and president of the Sophia Alumni Association.

Batch of 1964

"A lot of us are looking forward to our little tuck shop and canteen that's just at the entrance of the field," shares Adhiti Balaganesan (Batch of 2016–17). The school will vibrate with the energy of 75 years of students coming together. "It's going to be different, something that we've definitely not experienced in its history," she adds.

"Success, according to our school, is not measured in terms of material wealth; it's how valuable you are as a contributor to society and for reaching out to people, and I think Sophia has been very successful in creating that kind of community amongst its alumni. This alumni meet is one of those events for us where we're just getting to see so many of them connecting and sharing their fond memories. We can feel the pulsating atmosphere, which is the nostalgia that has been generated; it's like we are also living down memory lane with them," says Lali Purkayastha, a teacher who has completed her 23 years of teaching at Sophia High School. — BMB

Property tax bounty? For BBMP, every penny counts

Palike's revenue grows by 24.79% despite 60.1% collection shortfall

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Though there has been an increase of 24.79 % in property tax collection, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has still fallen short by 60.1% if targeted tax collection is taken into account. The first four months of this fiscal year have proven financially beneficial for BBMP, as it has seen a 24.79% increase in its tax collection. The total tax collection across all eight zones rose from 2,457.30 crore (April 1, 2023, to July 31, 2023) to 3,065.82 crore (April 1, 2024, to July 31, 2024).

3 factors

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath explained that three main factors contributed to this rise. "Firstly, defaulters who had not paid for a long time have now contributed 184 crore. Out of 3,95,250 defaulters, 1,07,344 have paid taxes under the One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme, bringing an additional 271.50 crore to the tax kitty." However, if all 3.95 lakh defaulters had paid their taxes, BBMP could have collected 733.31 crore. This leaves 2,74,721 defaulters, from whom BBMP is yet to collect 516.21 crore. The OTS target shortfall is estimated to be a whopping 70.4%. Yet, BBMP is happy that it at least brought 29.6% into the tax net.

Secondly, many property owners revised their self-assessment, he said. Although BBMP had expected that 16,501 properties would undergo tax revisions under the self-assessment scheme, potentially bringing in 222.38 crore, the first four months saw an upward revision in property taxes for 6,723 properties, resulting in an additional 163.13 crore. However, 16,904 properties are yet to be revised, leaving BBMP to collect 282.59 crore with an estimated shortfall to be 26.7%. Overall, BBMP had anticipated collecting 956.09 crore in property tax from 4,11,751 properties as of April 1, 2024, it has only managed to collect 380.63 crore from 1,14,067 properties by July 31, 2024. This means BBMP still needs to collect 831.53 crore from 3,04,810 defaulters.

First four months of this fiscal year proves beneficial to BBMP

> **Out of 3,95,250 defaulters, 1,07,344 have paid taxes under the One Time Settlement scheme, bringing an additional ₹271.50 crore to the tax kitty**
>
> –Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP chief

Server crash

Although July 31 was the deadline for OTS, there was a significant surge in property tax payments on Wednesday, causing server issues. In response, the BBMP central office and other tax offices remained open late into the night. Those unable to pay online submitted SAS applications and made payments offline through demand drafts and cheques. On Wednesday alone, offline payments amounted to 150 crore.

Nath said, "The NIC software has crashed, and we have received many representations and complaints. This issue will be discussed at the government level. We will review the situation and gather details on how many could not pay."

What's next?

BBMP officials have announced that notices will be sent to property tax defaulters, with the possibility of auctioning properties ahead. Property owners who have not paid their taxes will receive three notices. If payment is not made after these notices, the revenue department will take stringent actions.

Zonal property tax

Bommanahalli witnessed an increase in property tax collection from 267.12 crore in the first four months of 2023 to 316.10 crore in the first four months of this fiscal year, reflecting an 18.32% growth. Dasarahalli's collections rose from 70.58 crore to 96.21 crore.

The East zone, a major contributor, increased its collection from 456.69 crore in 2023 to 544.46 crore in 2024. Mahadevapura saw a substantial rise from 643.43 crore to 808.40 crore. Rajarajeshwari Nagar's collections improved from 163.99 crore to 212.42 crore. The South zone saw an increase from 385.86 crore to 459.01 crore. The West zone, which had 267.36 crore in 2023, collected 337.82 crore in 2024. Yelahanka experienced a significant rise, from 202.27 crore to 291.40 crore.

Scholarship for auto drivers' children

Namma Yatri, the open mobility app, announced a new initiative to support the education of children of auto and cab drivers in Bengaluru and Chennai. This scholarship programme, called the 'Namma Yatri Rising Stars,' provides financial assistance to 10th and 12th-grade students, recognising their academic achievements and helping them pursue higher education.

The Namma Yatri Rising Stars programme aims to uplift over 500 students each year, offering essential support to those who excel academically despite challenging circumstances. Scholarships were awarded at events held in Bengaluru and Chennai. **BMB**

Darshan to be in custody till Aug 14

The judicial custody of jailed Kannada superstar Darshan and his associates has been extended till August 14 by the 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court on Thursday.

Darshan and his associates, including partner Pavithra Gowda, were produced before the court via video conference from Bengaluru Central Prison. Four of the accused were produced before the court online from the Tumakuru district prison. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) had submitted a remand application before the court seeking an extension of the judicial custody.

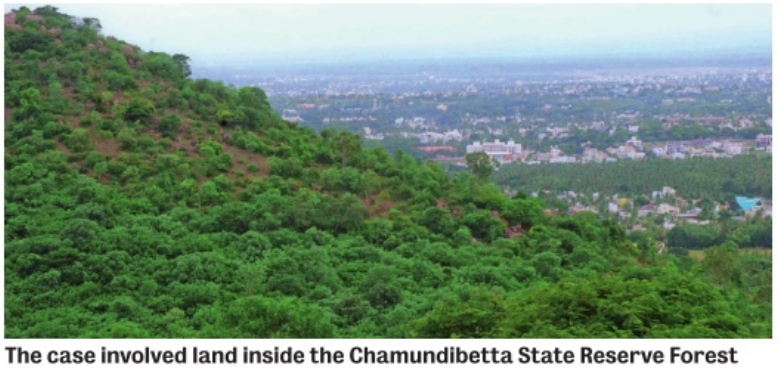
The gruesome murder of Renukaswamy took place on June 8 in Bengaluru. He was kidnapped from his hometown, Chitradurga, brought to Bengaluru, kept in a shed, and tortured to death. **IANS**

Once a forest, always a forest: HC on land ownership ruling

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The High Court has overturned a trial court's decision that had declared private individuals as the owners of land notified by the Mysore Maharaja in 1929 for the creation of a State Reserve Forest. The division bench, comprising Justices Krishna S Dixit and Ramachandra D Huddar, allowed the appeal filed by the State government and Karnataka State Road Corporation, setting aside the trial court's order of 2011, which had ruled in favour of Mallaiah and others.

The court emphasised the importance of the principle, "Once a forest, always a forest," especially in the current context of rapid deforestation. Mallaiah had claimed that his father, Mayaga, was the owner/kabjedaar of the lands in question and that the revenue authorities had unlawfully changed the entries in favor of the State Forest Department. The plaintiff's primary argument was that the 1929 Forest Notification, which established the Chamundibetta State Reserve Forest, did not include the suit lands. The state argued that there was no evidence to prove the relationship between the plaintiffs and their alleged ancestor, Mayaga, who was shown as the land owner. They contended that the suit for declaration of title was not maintainable under the Code of Civil Procedure, as grievances related to private lands within a State Forest should have been addressed under the provisions of the Mysore Forest Act itself.



The case involved land inside the Chamundibetta State Reserve Forest

The bench noted that revenue records concerning the suit lands had been mutated in favour of the State Forest Department since 1950, and Mayaga's name could not have been suddenly entered in place of the Forest Department without any basis.

The bench said when it comes to cases involving rivers and forests, the constitutional courts have a greater responsibility. They are not merely arbiters tasked with resolving disputes but are also stakeholders in the preservation and protection of these resources.

Revanna case: Judgment reserved

The High Court has reserved its judgment on a petition filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to revoke the bail granted to HD Revanna, a Janata Dal (Secular) leader, who is accused of kidnapping a woman. Justice M Nagaprasanna, presiding over a single judge bench, heard the arguments from both sides before reserving the order. The special court had previously granted bail to Revanna on May 13.

The case originated from a complaint filed by the woman's son, alleging the involvement of Prajwal Revanna, the JD(S) leader's son, in obscene videos with the woman. It is further alleged that prior to the complaint being filed, the woman was abducted in an attempt to silence her and destroy evidence, preventing her from lodging a complaint against Prajwal Revanna.

Senior Advocate Professor Ravivarma Kumar, representing the SIT, argued that the evidence collected and the chargesheet filed have established these facts. He contended that bail should be cancelled in such a case. Kumar also pointed out that the victim's statement, which specifically indicted Revanna, was recorded, but the court granted bail without referring to the statements under sections 161 and 164. Opposing the plea, Senior Advocate C V Nagesh, representing Revanna, argued that the considerations for granting bail and cancelling bail are entirely different. He highlighted that apart from a statement made by a co-accused, Satish Babana, to the victim's son, alleging that Revanna had asked for the woman to be brought to his house, there was no other evidence. Nagesh questioned whether this would constitute a penal offense.

Bus stop hurdle has choked Janatha Bazaar

Commuters are battling severe traffic congestion due to poor placement of transit stands near major signal, causing delays during peak hours

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents and commuters in the Outer Ring Road area near Janatha Bazar are facing significant traffic congestion due to the inconvenient placement of bus stops. The bus stop is very close to a major signal, causing traffic to pile up whenever a bus stops to pick up or drop off passengers.

During peak hours, the situation becomes particularly dire, with long lines of vehicles causing delays and frustration for daily commuters. Dhruv Nagarajan, a regular commuter, expressed his frustration: "There is a blame game between the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Traffic Police, and Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC). For just one bus stop, three different government departments are involved. BMTC needs to inform the Traffic Engineering Cell about the new location of the bus stop, and they will take action based on that. However, nothing has changed in two years. We are requesting them to shift the bus stop as soon as possible to relieve the junction at Janatha Bazar."

The Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP) responded to complaints by stating that they have already requested the relocation of the bus stop to facilitate smoother traffic flow. "The bus stop near Ittamadu signal has already been requested to be moved. The bus stop for Nayandahalli has been shifted to Rangas, and the Kamakya route bus stop is also requested to be moved to ease traffic at the junction. Staff are being deployed in two shifts, and sector in-charge officers are present during rush hours to manage traffic," said a BTP spokesperson. Despite these measures, commuters like Rajesh Kumar, who drives to work daily, still find the situation unbearable. "Every morning, it's the same story. The buses stop right at the signal, and it takes forever to get through the junction. I end up being late for work almost every day. It's frustrating," he said.

> **"The buses stop right at the signal, and it takes forever to get through the junction. I end up being late for work**
> – Rajesh Kumar, commuter

Another commuter, Anita Sharma, echoed these sentiments: "I have to leave home well before time just to make sure I get to work on time. The traffic is just too much, especially during the school rush hour. It's not just inconvenient; it's affecting our daily lives."

The BTP has also stated that they are taking legal action against illegally parked vehicles and clearing unauthorised parking to improve traffic flow. They have instructed sector incharge officers and City Operations and Bus Resources Administration staff to ensure that buses stop properly at designated stands, such as the Kathriguppe bus stand. "If the buses do not stop properly, we will take legal action against such drivers," the BTP official from Banashankari traffic police station said in their letter.

Residents and commuters are urging the authorities to act swiftly and relocate the problematic bus stop. They hope that this will finally bring relief to the congested junction at Janatha Bazar, making their daily commutes smoother and less stressful.

Traffic congestion and delays impacting commuters at the bus stop

Death box removed: Indiranagar footpath safe again

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Traffic Police have taken action to remove the electrical junction box that was both posing a danger and obstructing the footpath at BM Shree Circle. The junction box had been lying on the footpath for over a week, with no one addressing the issue until now.

Bangalore Mirror published a story "Box of death, electrical hazard at Indiranagar" on July 30, narrating the alarming condition of the electrical junction box and the attention it had been drawing. Many pedestrians and activists deemed the electrical junction box a danger to pedestrians and have called on the authorities to ensure proper maintenance. They said the electrical junction box had been in a bad condition since January 2024 and the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) employees tried to cover it with a cardboard sheet and sealed it with tape in January. In response to public outcry following the deaths of three people due to BESCOM's negligence, BESCOM employees covered the box with a cardboard sheet and sealed it with tape. This reactive measure was detailed in another Bangalore Mirror story, "Cardboard safeguard," published on January 2, 2024.

Bangalore Mirror
Box of death; electrical hazard at Indiranagar

BM's story on July 30 highlighted concerns over dangerously deteriorated junction box, prompting for immediate action

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Assistant Sub-Inspector (Traffic) Chowdaraju said that he followed his superior's directive and ensured the removal of the electrical junction in association with BESCOM employees and Police Constable Mohan Ram. Pedestrians have appreciated the Traffic Police. "I am very happy to see the footpath clean and neat without any hurdles at the BM Shree Circle. I want to thank the Traffic Police and the BESCOM employees for this," said Prasanna S, a pedestrian.

Footpath after removing the electrical junction box at BM Shree Circle

Satish Rao, a social worker from Indiranagar has said that the rapid response of Bangalore Traffic Police is commendable. "Our thanks to the Jeevan Bhima Nagar Traffic Police Station Police Inspector Vasanth, ACP Kishor Bharani and their team for removing the electrical junction box. At the same time, this begs the question, which is, if the media and the public don't raise a hue and cry, nothing happens. In other words, the media and the public have to constantly keep their eyes and ears open to report any life-threatening issues to the concerned authorities. If not, the innocent public may have to pay dearly, including, God forbid with their lives," said Satish Rao.

Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation has said that it is good to see timely intervention and action. "This good practice can be carried out by them in all zones to protect pedestrians and make Namma Bengaluru a walkable and cosmopolitan city. If we improve the quality of life of the citizens, Bengaluru will score as the best city in the country for quality of life. We are the technology capital of India and to retain this we need more proactive actions like these," said Vinod Jacob.

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Dengue risk

Andrahalli

Stagnant water in the drain on 4th Cross, Dodana Badavane, Andrahalli Main Road, Ward 40, is causing mosquito breeding and risk of dengue. Immediate action is needed.

Footpath obstructed

RR Nagar

The footpath and the car parking area next to RR Nagar police station on Model Road are fully occupied by street vendors.

Garbage crisis

Kalyan Nagar

Garbage piling up opposite St. Paul's School, Chellikere, Kalyan Nagar is causing mosquito breeding and a major dengue threat. BBMP and local authorities need to act immediately.

Something wrong about no-right turn rule here

One-way norm, haphazard parking turn school runs into a struggle for Seegehalli families; residents, parents demand right-turn access to ease commutes

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of White City Layout, Seegehalli, and other areas in KR Puram Assembly constituency have been struggling a lot to drop their children off at schools due to the unjustified one-way norm implemented on one of the service roads near Medahalli flyover by the traffic police. Motorists are also stopped from taking right turns at a few traffic junctions, thus compelling them to proceed till KR Puram Traffic Police Station to take a right turn to proceed towards Medahalli and other school areas.

The residents complain that the haphazard parking of vehicles, especially concrete mixer trucks and garbage compactor trucks, has become a nuisance and a hurdle for them to use the service road. "With most of the space occupied by heavy vehicles, there is hardly any space left for other vehicles on the road. Dropping children at school has become a herculean task for us," said Harischandra Prasad V, a resident.

Demanding the authorities concerned and the traffic police to clear all hurdles at the Medahalli underpass to ensure vehicles move without any problems, Vishwanath Reddy, a resident of White City Layout, said the traffic police have to help the residents cross the road to reach the other side of the road. "With the one-way norm being enforced on the service road, we have to go all the way up to KR Puram Traffic Police Station to take a right turn. We have no problem coming back home after dropping our children off at school in the morning," said Vishwanath Reddy.

Traffic jam at one of the service roads near the Medahalli flyover

> **Heavy vehicles occupy most space on roads. Dropping children off at school has become a herculean task for us**
>
> –Harischandra Prasad V, White City Layout resident

It is said that they have to take a detour of two kilometres to reach the school, situated at a half-kilometre distance. "Traffic jams on the service roads on both sides of the National Highway have become a routine, and we have to waste more than an hour in the traffic that moves at a snail's pace. We want the traffic police to allow us to take right turns at the traffic junctions on the main road to drop our children off at school on time," said Jagadeesh, a resident.

A resident, pleading anonymity, said that traffic police are harassing two-wheeler riders but not taking action against other motorists, especially those driving tractors, while taking a right turn at traffic junctions. "I want the traffic police to relax the one-way norm and allow two-wheeler riders to take the right turn on the main road in the morning. It will help the parents who want to drop their children off at school on two-wheelers," the resident said. Meanwhile, the KR Puram Traffic Police Inspector was not available for comment.

SSLC exam zones secured

With the SSLC exams scheduled from August 2 to August 9, 2024, a prohibition order has been issued to ensure the smooth and orderly conduct of the examinations. Commissioner of Police B Dayananda has declared a 200-metre radius around all examination centres a prohibited zone. Under this order, all Xerox, cyber, and computer centres within this radius must remain closed on examination days. The education department has also appealed to students and parents to follow these guidelines to maintain a fair and orderly examination environment.

New policy to tackle cybercrimes

The Karnataka government on Thursday launched a comprehensive Cyber Security Policy 2024 to combat rising levels of cybercrime and promote awareness to protect the state's digital infrastructure.

Minister for RDPR, IT and BT Priyank Kharge, emphasised that the policy, aligned with national and international efforts, highlights Karnataka's proactive stance in addressing cyber threats. He expressed confidence that its implementation would protect the state's digital infrastructure. "It will also foster innovation and growth within the cybersecurity sector, ensuring that Karnataka remains at the forefront of technological advancement and becomes the leading cybersecurity hub of the country," he said.

The policy aims to build a dynamic, secure, and resilient cyberspace for all G2G, G2B, and G2C government services. "It also aims to create an assurance framework, strengthen the regulatory framework, quickly respond to security threats, protect critical information, reduce supply chain risks, and develop human resources," he added. **–IANS**

₹9.47L collected in traffic fines in 1 day

A special drive aimed at reducing violations of rules by the city traffic police on Wednesday registered a total of 4,514 cases and collected a fine of approximately Rs 9,47,500. Furthermore, police registered 30 cases, seized 27 vehicles, and arrested 19 individuals and three minors during a targeted drive against wheeling offenders from July 23 to July 31. Additionally, three minors were caught performing wheelies; action was taken against their guardians; three driving licences were sent for suspension; and several registration certificates were sent for cancellation.

According to police officials, in the north division alone, 789 cases were recorded for infractions such as parking in BMTC bus stops and riding on footpaths, with penalties totaling Rs. 4,01,500. In the East Division, the special operation resulted in the registration of 3,065 cases against motorists for using dazzling and glaring LED lights. Approximately 7,140 vehicles were inspected, and fines totaling Rs 15,32,500 were collected. DCP East division officials highlighted the need for passengers to comply with traffic regulations to enhance road safety, with fines of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 imposed based on the nature of the violation.

'3,605 cases were registered against motorists for using glaring LED lights'

Meanwhile, in the South Division, traffic police registered 2,517 cases for various offences, including refusal to hire, demanding excess fare, defective silencers, black film, jumping traffic signals, wrong parking, footpath parking, triple riding, using mobile phones, not wearing safety belts, carrying excess schoolchildren, riding without helmets, and parking at BMTC bus stops. The operation was conducted in response to numerous complaints about congestion on main roads and the ring road, aiming to improve road safety and reduce accidents. Simultaneously, the operation took place in the North Division, resulting in 789 cases being registered. Offences included parking at BMTC bus stops and riding on footpaths. The operation collected fines totaling Rs. 4,01,500.

The drive is being conducted under the orders of the Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru. Launched on July 23, the operation aims to reinforce the importance of traffic rules and ensure safer roads for all. A senior police official stated, "These ongoing special operations are integral to the Bengaluru Traffic Police's efforts to enhance road safety in the city. They act as a reminder for all motorists to adhere to traffic regulations, thereby ensuring both their own safety and that of others. Throughout the operation, motorists were also educated on the importance of following traffic rules for their own well-being." **–Sanjana CS**

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Sen powers to quarters, Satwik-Chirag out

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Answers sought on rising forest grab

Based on citizen's complaint over 992 new encroachment cases during 2022-23, Environment Ministry writes to state govt requesting action

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has written to the state government regarding the high number of fresh forest encroachment cases.

The letter, a copy of which is with BM, is addressed to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department and is in response to a complaint given by a citizen regarding the failure of Karnataka Forest Department's (KFD) officials in preventing fresh forest encroachments.

MoEF&CC has requested the state government to take appropriate action on the complaint and initiate action against forest officials for their failure to prevent massive fresh forest encroachments in Bengaluru, Belagavi, Hassan, and Shivamogga Circles of Karnataka as per the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, and relevant state provisions.

Complaint highlights that timely action is not being taken by the senior officials and frontline staff, leading to 992 fresh forest encroachment cases during 2022-23. The situation has been the same for the last few years, with more than 100 fresh forest encroachment cases reported from Bengaluru, Belagavi, Hassan, and Shivamogga circles alone.

"This raises the question of how the senior forest officials of All India Service posted in these circles have failed to prevent and evict encroachments on paper as well as on the ground, which has to be dealt with very seriously, and these officials have to be prosecuted as per the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, and rules made thereof, and All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969," said Avinash, the complainant.

The complaint further underlines that it is only the lower-rank staff such as deputy range forest officers and forest guards that face the consequences, and hardly any action is taken against range forest officers (RFOs), assistant conservators of forest (ACFs), deputy conservators of forest (DCFs), and chief conservators of forests (CCFs), except in rare cases.

City-based activists and conservationists underline that both the judiciary and the Government of India have issued directions from time to time to the state governments and state forest departments to prevent and evict encroachments on forest land. However, in the absence of strict actions taken by the authorities concerned, encroachments continue to happen.

"Apart from directions issued by MoEF&CC on the prevention of forest encroachment and evictions, the Supreme Court and central government have also issued directions," said a city-based conservationist.

Activists believe that negligence of higher officials is aiding rising forest grab

> **"This raises the question of how the senior forest officials have failed to prevent and evict encroachments on paper as well as on ground, which has be to dealt**
>
> –Avinash, complainant

Guv-govt stand-off intensifies over show-cause notice to CM

Karnataka govt urges Governor to withdraw notice, calling it "murder of democracy and constitution"

The ongoing conflict between state governments and governors, observed in Delhi, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and other non-BJP ruled states, has now extended to Karnataka. In a Cabinet meeting on Thursday, Karnataka's government passed a resolution condemning Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot's decision to issue a show cause notice to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The notice demands an explanation for why prosecution sanction should not be granted in connection with the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment 'scam.'

At a press conference, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar stated, "Cabinet has unanimously resolved to advise the Governor to consider the entire factual context and the established legal position. Given the circumstances, the Governor should have acted based on the aid and advice of the council of ministers, rather than on personal discretion. The Governor did not take into account the case details or the material available, including the Chief Secretary's report indicating an ongoing Judicial Commission of Inquiry. Furthermore, the Governor overlooked that the allegations made do not constitute an offense under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988."

Shivakumar further criticised the Governor for acting with undue haste and ignoring procedural requirements. "The Governor issued the notice on the same day he received the petition from an individual with a criminal background, without reviewing the records. The show cause notice, particularly the Governor's statement that 'on perusal of the request, it is seen that the allegations against you are of serious nature and prima facie seem plausible,' suggests a pre-judgment of the issue, ignoring the Chief Secretary's report. The entire sequence of events and the facts based on available records clearly indicate a misuse of the Governor's Constitutional Office and an attempt to destabilise a legitimately elected government in Karnataka for political reasons." He added that, given these facts, the Council of Ministers strongly advised the Governor to withdraw the notice and reject the application for sanction by denying prior approval.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre described this as a "çonspiracy to topple a democratically elected government."

Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar at a press conference on Thursday

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I FEEL SICK

How do I know if I have the flu, covid, RSV or something else?

You wake with a sore throat and realise you are sick. Is this going to be a two-day or a two-week illness? Should you go to a doctor or just go to bed?

Most respiratory illnesses have very similar symptoms at the start: sore throat, congested or runny nose, headache, fatigue and fever. This may progress to a dry cough.

Best case scenario is that you have "a cold" (which can be any one of hundreds of viruses, most commonly rhinovirus), which is short-lived and self-limiting.

But some respiratory illnesses can be much more serious. Here is a brief guide to some important bugs to know about that are circulating this winter, and how to work out which one you have.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

For most people an RSV infection will feel like "a cold" – annoying, but only lasting a few days.

However, for babies, older adults and people with immune issues, it can lead to bronchiolitis or pneumonia, and even become life-threatening.

RSV isn't seasonal, which means you are just as likely to get it in summer as in winter. However, it is highly contagious so we noticed it disappearing almost completely during Covid lockdowns.

There is now a rapid-antigen test (RAT) for RSV which also checks for influenza and Covid, and is the best way of finding out if RSV is what is causing symptoms.

Recently, a preventative immune therapy has become available for high risk babies (nirsevimab) and there are also vaccines for higher risk adults. Nirsevimab is also available to all babies for free in Western Australia and Queensland.

But there are no specific treatments. Adults who get it simply have to ride it out (using whatever you need to manage symptoms).

Babies and higher risk patients need to present to an emergency department if they test positive for RSV and are also looking or feeling very unwell (this might mean rapid shallow breathing, fevers not coming down with paracetamol or ibuprofen, a baby not feeding, mottled-looking skin, or going blue around the mouth).

If a patient has developed bronchiolitis or pneumonia, they may need to be hospitalised.

Influenza

Once you have had the "true flu" (influenza), you will find it frustrating when people call their sniffly cold-like symptoms a "flu".

Influenza infections generally start with a sore throat and headache which quickly turns into high fevers, generalised aches and excessive fatigue. You feel like you have been hit by a truck and may struggle to get out of bed. This can last a week or more, even in people who are generally fit and healthy.

Influenza is a major public health issue internationally, with 3–5 million cases of severe illness and 290,000 to 650,000 respiratory deaths annually.

People who are at greater risk of complications from influenza include pregnant women, children under five, adults aged 65 and over, First Nations peoples, and people with chronic or immunosuppressive medical conditions. For this reason, annual vaccination is recommended and funded for vulnerable people.

Vaccination is also readily available for all Australians who want it, through pharmacies as well as medical clinics, usually at a cost of less than A$30. In some states, it's free for all residents.

Influenza is seasonal, with definite peaks in the winter months. This is why vaccines are offered from early autumn.

If you think you may have influenza, there are now home-testing RATs: all current influenza RATs are in combination with COVID RATs, as the symptoms overlap.

Treatment for most people is to manage symptoms and try to avoid spreading it around. Doctors can also prescribe antivirals to vulnerable patients; these work best if started within 48 hours of symptoms.

Covid

It has been less than five years since Covid-19, caused by SARS-CoV-2, started to spread around the world in pandemic proportions. Although Covid is no longer a public health emergency, it still causes more deaths than influenza and RSV combined.

Unlike RSV and influenza, only those aged over 70 are in a high-risk age group for Covid. Other factors besides age may put you at higher risk of becoming very unwell when infected by this virus. This includes having other respiratory diseases (such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, also known as COPD), diabetes, cancer, kidney disease, obesity or heart disease.

Unlike most respiratory viruses, SARS-CoV-2 tends to set off inflammation beyond the respiratory system. This can involve a range of other organs including the heart, kidneys and blood vessels.

Although most people are back to their usual work or study after a week or two, a significant proportion go on to experience extended symptoms such as fatigue, breathlessness, brain fog and mood changes. When these last more than 12 weeks, without any other explanation for symptoms, it's called long Covid.

Covid vaccines can prevent serious illness and have been monitored for several years now for their safety and effectiveness. Current vaccination recommendations are based on age and immune status. It's worth discussing them with your doctor if you are unsure whether you would benefit or not.

Antivirals can treat Covid in higher-risk people who contract it, whether vaccinated or not.

Specific advice about what to do if you test positive on a RAT will vary according to your current state guidelines and workplace, however the general principles are always: avoid spreading the virus to others, and give yourself time to rest and recover.

What if it's not one of those?

So you've done your combined RSV/flu/Covid RAT and the result is negative. But you still have symptoms. What else could it be?

More than 200 different viruses can cause cold and flu symptoms, including rhinovirus (mentioned above), adenovirus and sometimes even undefined pathogens.

If an illness progresses to a cough which will not go away, and/or you start coughing up sputum, this could be a bacterial infection, such as pertussis (whooping cough), streptococcus pneumoniae, haemophilus influenzae or moraxella catarrhalis. So it's worth getting assessed by a GP who may do a chest Xray and/or test your sputum, particularly if they suspect pneumonia.

You also may also start out with what is clearly a viral infection but then get a secondary bacterial infection later. So if you are getting more unwell over time, it's worth getting tested, in case antibiotics will help.

However, taking antibiotics for a purely viral illness will not only be useless, it can contribute to harmful antibiotic resistance and give you unwanted side effects.

(By Natasha Yates, Bond University, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Dementia risk factors

Bad cholesterol

Loss of vision and high "bad" cholesterol levels have been added to risk factors for dementia, according to a new report by Lancet Commission.

Researchers said addressing risk factors childhood onwards and monitoring them throughout life could help stave off or delay onset of the mental condition, even in people having a high genetic risk.

Air pollution

Quality education for children and reduced exposure to air pollution have been suggested to reduce the risk of the disease, the 2024 Lancet Commission for dementia said.

The international team of authors, led by those at the University College London, UK, found that about nine per cent of global dementia cases could be attributed to the newly added risk factors, with seven per cent and two per cent being attributable to high "bad" cholesterol in mid-life starting at 40 years of age and untreated vision loss in later life, respectively.

Other factors

Lower education levels in early life and social isolation in later life were other risk factors, each attributable to five per cent of global dementia cases, the authors found. Dementia impairs thinking, memory and decision-making, thereby, impacting one's daily activities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia.

The 12 risk factors for dementia previously identified by the 2020 Lancet Commission and linked with 40 per cent of the global cases include lower levels of education, air pollution, along with health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and depression. Dementia cases around the world are expected to almost triple by 2050, rising from 57 million in 2019 to 153 million, the authors said. —PTI

No signal, no timer, just cross the road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Expressing disappointment over the absence of a traffic signal at the busy junction, Paramesh N, a pedestrian, said that he has to wait for more than 10 minutes to cross the road. "The traffic police must install a signal here for the benefit of pedestrians, especially senior citizens. If the traffic police neglect or delay this, there is a chance of hapless pedestrians getting injured in road accidents," said Paramesh.

Criticising the traffic police for keeping a concrete barrier on the zebra cross on Millers Road, Krishna P, a pedestrian, said that pedestrians are compelled to walk on the road thus making them vulnerable to accidents. "All of us are aware that zebra crossing is supposed to be free from all hurdles for the benefit of pedestrians. The traffic police must put up another zebra crossing if they want to keep the concrete barrier on the existing crossing on a permanent basis," said Krishna.

Coming down heavily on the traffic police for the lack of a traffic signal at Basaveshwara Circle which is just a few hundred metres away from Legislators' Home and the State Assembly, Rameshchandra P, a pedestrian, said the need of the hour is to ensure pedestrians cross the road without any hassles. "The traffic police are spending a lot of money on CCTV cameras at the traffic junctions. What is preventing them from installing a traffic signal to facilitate pedestrians to reach the other side of the road?

Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic - South) told BM that she would look into the matter. "I will visit the spot soon," the ACP (Traffic) said.

No clarity on existing biodiversity of city

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sources, measures being taken by them to conserve and rejuvenate natural resources, etc. However, none of them reverted with the required documents. We are meeting KBB to understand the next course of action," added Swamy.

The ABS scheme refers to access and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of natural resources. As per the BD Act, the users of biological resources are supposed to share a percentage of profits with local communities. This percentage of profit, known as Access Benefit Sharing (ABS), must be disbursed to local BMCs for biodiversity conservation purposes or to promote the livelihoods of local people from where natural resources were accessed. However, there have been many cases of non-compliance on the part of city-based companies falling under this category.

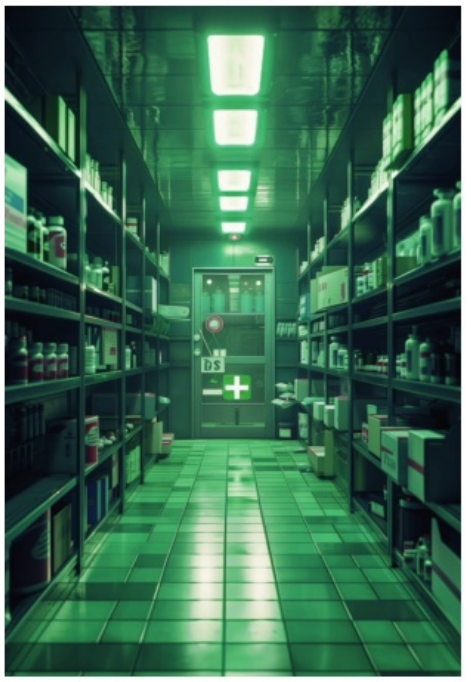
Defaulters

Sources from KBB have also informed BM that there are many defaulters.

"We have been writing to these companies and asking them to submit Form I of ABS. Businesses utilising natural resources or 'codified traditional knowledge' are supposed to provide information regarding the usage of natural resources and seek permission before moving ahead. However, there are many defaulters," a KBB official had told BM a few months ago.

Bengaluru's biodiversity undocumented

It has been months since the first meeting of Bengaluru's BMC was convened by BBMP after a long gap of nearly four years. The meeting was called after a constant push from various quarters and the idea was to ensure the city's fast-depleting biodiversity is cataloged and



steps are taken to conserve it. However, the committee is yet to begin its work on the ground.

City-based environment researchers and experts say documenting Bengaluru's biodiversity has been long pending and should begin as early as possible.

"We are mercilessly removing and damaging the city's green cover without clarity on existing biodiversity. Apart from mindless infrastructure projects leading to the axing of trees, the city's civic agency is responsible for damaging hundreds of avenue trees while executing these projects. Looking at how Bengaluru is losing its green cover and sustaining damage to various ecosystems, BMC must start the process without wasting time," said Dr. TV Ramachandra, Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

As per the Biological Diversity Act (BDA) 2002, a BMC must be constituted by every local self-governing institution in rural and urban areas. The committee must then create a PBR, a repository of traditional knowledge of local biological resources.

While Bengaluru's PBR was created in 2010, it has not been updated.

While BMC is summoning businesses under the ABS scheme, experts say the committee should not dilute its focus and work towards preparing a quality PBR, updating the document, and other important functioning aspects of the committee. ABS-related responsibilities should be discharged by KBB.

"The last few meetings of BMC were regarding the ABS scheme. However, there are no biodiversity harvesting areas within BBMP limits and thus the committee has a limited role to play. BMC's most important responsibility is to prepare and update PBR. The committee should focus on BMC's functioning, preparation of quality PBR, and recommendations on the improvement of the city's biodiversity," said a city-based environment researcher.

Environment experts say that once updated, the register (PBR) will serve as a comprehensive record of various aspects of biodiversity and will help create awareness towards conservation activities.

"It is the BMC members' responsibility to ensure that the city's biodiversity is documented as early as possible. Moreover, educational institutions should be brought in to create the document. A few years back, we documented the biodiversity of 170 villages in Shivamogga district with the help of school children within one year. The validation workshop of the project showed that 98% of our documentation was accurate," added Dr. Ramachandra.

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I, Adithya Yadav S S/O, Srikanth N R/o New No 49 Old No 406 57th Cross 3rd Block, Ramamandira Rajajinagar, Bengaluru 560010 have changed my name to Adithya Yadaw S for all purposes.

I, Naresh Gulabani residing at B-803 Hinduja Lake front Estate, Hulimavu Bangalore-560076 Karnataka have changed my name to Naresh Chander Gulabani for all purposes

I, Padmasree.R, No-27, Shivakamala,13th main, jagruti colony,puttenahalli,jp nagar 7th phase, B'luru-560078 have changed my name to Padmashree.R for all purposes.

I, SHWETHA S PAI D/O Satyanarayana Ammunje Pai have changed my name from S SHWETHA born on 20/02/1982 residing at No 12/5 1st Crs, Vijayanagar, Blr 40 vide affidavit dated 30.07.24 at Blr.

I, Rakesh Raju S/O, Raju Narasaraju Ramachandra R/o No 327 Flat No 001 Tulasi 1st Floor 6th Cross Nr, 7th Main Rbi Layout Jp Nagar 7th, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Rakesh Raju R for all purposes

I, Pranav Khandekar R/o No 52 Prakruthi Enclave 5th Main Rd Giridhama LYT Rajarajeshwari Nagar Bengaluru 560098, have changed my name to Pranav Deepak Khandekar.

I Shubhakara P E S/o Earappa Reddy R/a. 124, parappana Agrahara, Electronic city Post, B'lore-100 declare that Shubhakara P E and P V Shubhakara and Shubhakara all names belong to one and the same person i.e., myself only.

I, Syedani Bi W/o Basha.s R/o 3rd Cross, Khaji Mohalla hoskote, Bengaluru Rural 562114 have changed my name to Syedani for all purposes.

I, Rajluxmi D/o Prem Singh Rawat R/o No-39/2,3,4, Kunda - lahalli Gate, B'luru 560037 have changed my name to Rajluxmi Rawat for all purposes

GET NOTICED

Late bloomer lands India's third medal

Swapnil Kusale doesn't quite know just why it has taken so long for him to be at the Olympics, where he landed a medal on debut on Thursday.

A medal that is definitely life-changing for him personally but also historic in significance for Indian shooting given that it's the first time that a rifle shooter has managed to do it in the physically draining 50m 3 positions event.

Ask him why it took him so long to arrive, he was as candid as one can be.

"May be I was not as strong mentally," says the 28-year-old. Kusale began shooting in 2009, made his international debut in 2012 but it took him another 12 years to make his Olympic debut.

The 50m rifle shooter was not in the scheme of things in Rio 2016 and missed out on a Tokyo 2020 berth narrowly as per the then selection criteria which gave more importance to performance in international events.

He did not leave anything to chance for the Paris Games. He secured a quota place for India with a fourth place finish in the 50m rifle three positions at 2022 World Championships before maintaining the consistency in the domestic trials in March and April earlier this year.

The expectations were higher from the much younger Aishwary Pratap Tomar in the 50m rifle three positions but it was Kusale who made history by becoming the first finalist from India in the event.

Despite feeling the butterflies in the stomach on the morning of the final, Kusale was able to control his emotions to land a historic bronze.

"Today the heartbeat was on the higher side. I just tried to control my breathing and did not try anything different. Everyone is more or less the same at this level," said Kusale, An opening shot of 9.6 showed that the nerves were indeed there but he regained focus to produce a highly consistent show in kneeling, prone and standing position.

His four 9s came in kneeling and standing while he came up with higher 10s regularly in the prone position. However, it was the high 10s in the standing position that pushed him into medal reckoning.tional coach Manoj Kumar said Kusale's bronze was a result of razor sharp focus over the last three months.

During the high-pressure final, Kusale made a conscious effort to not pay attention to the scores and just wanted to worry about his breathing and shooting.

"To be honest I did not see the scoreboard. It was my years of hardwork and that is what I kept in mind while shooting. I just wanted the Indian supporters to keep cheering for me," says Swapnil Kusale.

Sen powers to quarters, Satwik-Chirag out

Shuttler Lakshya Sen stormed into the quarterfinals of the men's singles event at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games with a commanding straight games victory over compatriot H.S. Prannoy. The all-Indian clash at the La Chapelle Arena on Thursday saw Sen dominate from start to finish, winning 21-12, 21-6 in just 39 minutes.

The 22-year-old Sen secured the opening game in 21 minutes. The second game was even more one-sided, as Sen's aggressive play overwhelmed Prannoy, who struggled to find answers to his younger opponent's relentless attacks. Sen clinched the second game with a resounding 21-6 score, sealing his place in the last eight.

In the first game, Lakshya opened a 5-1 lead and though Prannoy reduced the margin to 5-7, Sen won four points in a row to widen the gap to 10-5. Another four-point burst from 14-9 put the shuttler from Uttarakhand now training in Bengaluru, firmly on course to winning the first game.

In the second game, Sen surged to a 6-1 lead and extended it to 8-2. He won five points in a row and was soon leading 14-3 and went on to win the match rather easily.

Next up for Sen is a quarterfinal showdown with 12th-seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei. Chou advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating Japan's Kodai Naraoka in the Round of 16.

In the men's doubles event, the Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowed out of the competition in the quarterfinals. The duo faced a tough challenge against the World No.3 Malaysian pair of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik.

Despite a strong start, winning the first game 21-13, the Indian duo could not maintain their momentum. Chia and Soh fought back to take the second game 21-14 and sealed their victory with a 21-16 score in the deciding game.

Later, PV Sindhu will face China's He Bing Jiao in the women's singles round of 16.

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In English
JAYA!
THE VICTORY!
Produced & Directed by LILLETE DUBEY
Lyrics & Script by SANDEEP KANJILAL | Original Music by ASHUTOSH PHATAK
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PVR - INOX CINEMAS {DIRECTORS CUT, FORUM REX WALK | NEXUS FORUM MALL, KORMANGALA | ORION MALL, YESHWANTPUR | VAISHNAVI SAPPHIRE MALL, TUMKUR ROAD | VEGA CITY MALL | MSR REGALIA | PHOENIX MARKET CITY, K.R. PURAM | BHARTIYA CITY | GT WORLD MALL | AURA PARK SQUARE, WHITEFIELD ROAD | SPIRIT MALL | VR MALL, WHITEFIELD ROAD | GLOBAL MALL, NAYANDALLI | UPTOWN OMR MALL | SUPERPLEX FALCON CITY | MANTRI MALL | CENTRAL MALL, J.P.NAGAR | GARUDA MALL | SWAGATH MALL | VALUE NEIGHBOURHOOD MALL, WHITEFIELD ROAD | BROOKFIELD MALL | LIDO | GALLERIA MALL, RMZ YELAHANKA, | GARUDA, YELAHANKA | SBR HORIZON, SEEGEHALLI} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {ROYAL MEENAKSHI MALL, 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m. | ETA MALL, BINNY MILL, 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m. | EAST ORION MALL, 10:30, 4:20, 10:10 p.m. | SHANTINIKETAN, 10:30, 11:00, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | SJR SPECTRUM MALL, 10:00, 1:00, 6:55, 9:55 p.m. | LULU MALL (TRD), 10:302, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | LULU MALL (VIP), 10:30, 1:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m.} | GOPALAN CINEMAS {ARCADE MALL, 10:0, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | LEGACY MALL, 10:15, 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15 p.m. | GRAND MALL, 10:15, 2:30, 7:00, 10:30 p.m. | SIGNATURE MALL, 9:45, 5:15, 10:00 p.m. | INNOVATION MALL, 10:30, 1:45, 7:00 p.m.} | INNOVATIVE {MARATHHALLI, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 10:15 p.m.} | CINEPHILE {HSR LAYOUT, 10:00, 2:25, 5:35, 10:30 P.M.} | ROCKLINE CINEMA MALL {JALAHALLI CROSS, 11:00, 1:30, 6:15, 9:30 p.m.} | MIRAJ CINEMAS {SUNKADAKATTE} | CINE GALAXY {SURATKAL, 1:45, 4:30, 6:45, 9:30 p.m.} | MOVIE TIME {DAVANGERE, 11:00, 4:00, 10:00 p.m. | BELLARY, 10:30, 2:00, 4:00, 10:00 p.m.} | VAIBHAV {SANJAYNAGAR, 2:00, 9:45 p.m.} | MANASA {KONANKUNTE} | BRUNDA THEATRE {HONGASANDRA} | PVR - INOX CINEMAS {FIZA MALL, MANGALORE | FORUM MALL, MYSORE | GARUDA MALL, MYSORE | CENTRAL, MANIPAL | SATYAM MALL, MYSORE | S MALL, TUMKUR | CENTRO MALL MYSORE} | CINEPOLIS {CITY CENTRE MALL, MANGALORE, 10:00, 1:00, 6:50, 9:50 p.m.} | V CINEMAS {T C PALYA} | BHARATH CINEMAS {MANGALORE | MANIPAL, 10:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15 p.m. | SHIMOGA, 11:00, 1:45, 7:30, 10:15 p.m.} | DRC CINEMAS {MYSORE} | SANGAM THEATRE {MYSORE, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | NETHRAVATHI THEATRE {BHADRAVATHI}.

FARNAZ

Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

The sum of the ages of Bob and Jim is 164. All of the 4 integers in their ages add to 20 and they are odd and different. Jim is 22 years older than Bob. What are their ages?

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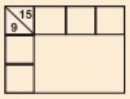
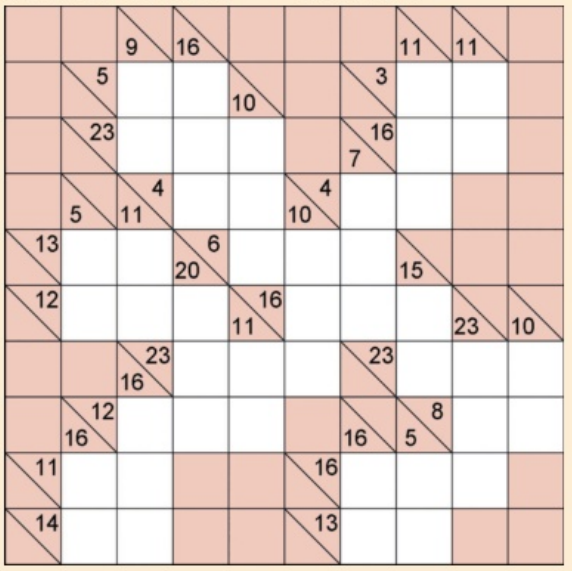
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

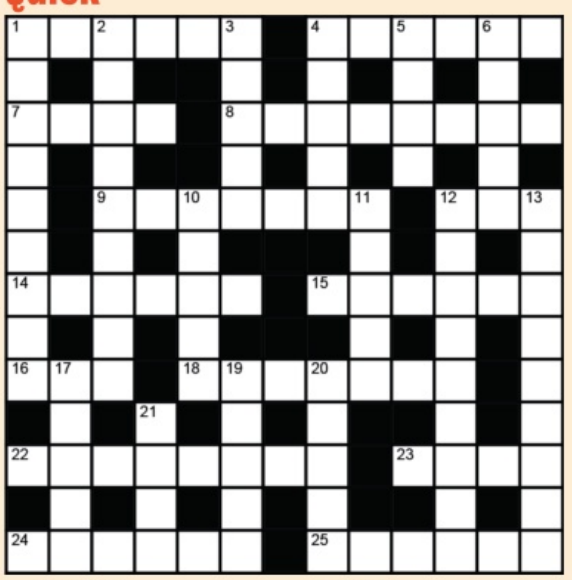


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Autobiography (6)
4 Solemn promise (6)
7 To venture (4)
8 Gave clear proof of (8)
9 Bangalore cinema home to India's first 4k screen (7)
12 Fraction (3)
14 Vibration (6)
15 Displease (6)
16 Parties (3)
18 Bituminous pitch (7)
22 Delivering a blow (8)
23 Money owed (4)
24 Speed away (6)
25 Took it easy (6)

DOWN

1 Refereed or umpired? (9)
2 Plunderers or raiders (9)
3 Cowboy's rope, lasso (5)
4 Fix or correct (5)
5 Little difficulty (4)
6 Ms Garbo of Hollywood (5)
10 Stringed instrument (5)
11 ___ dig : below one's dignity? (5)
12 Medical therapy (9)
13 Inscribed a book etc. to a person or a cause (9)
17 In No. 1 position (2,3)
19 Move (5)
20 Cartoon Viking (5)
21 Short skirt (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS H

UM GUWG CKII VQG FWKI OVGKI WII ZWVDMNF WNM QYMN, CKII VMYMN SOG GQ FMW.

Linemaro

You must be of an endangered species, because you are one of a kind

Mindchow

You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams

Joke of the day

Swimming is good for you, especially if you're drowning. Not only do you get a cardio workout, but also you don't die

Loop

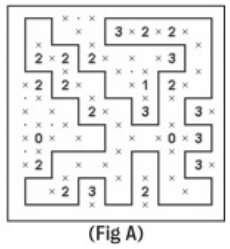
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

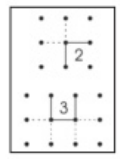
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

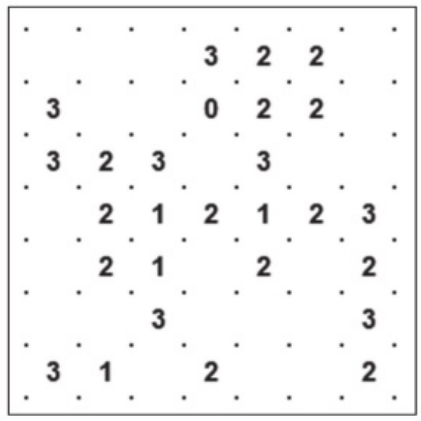
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



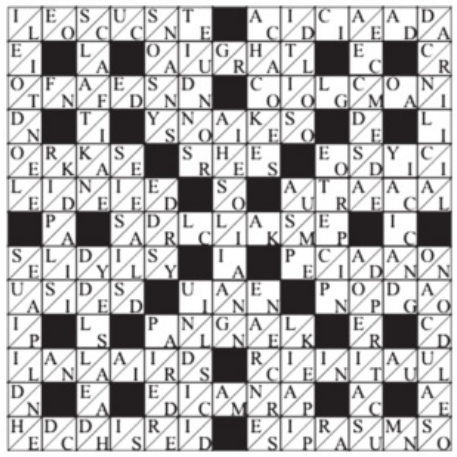
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



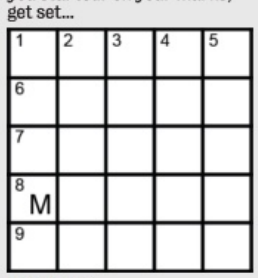
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Scars; 6 Outer; 7 PI Run; 8 Ament; 9 BK SOS

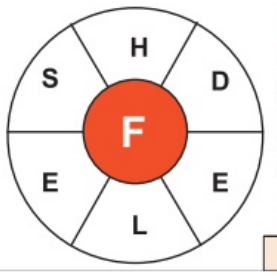
DOWN

1 Mr Cub; 2 One or; 3 Asura; 4 Knits; 5 Pests

Mensapuzzle

Solve this dingbat:

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; 06 Good; 08 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				3	7			
	3							
	1	2	6	8				
		5		7	9			8
7			5		3			2
9			8	2		3		
				1	8	4	2	
							1	
			7	9				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 8
1 2 3 3

Medium = 18
4 6 6 9

Hard = 56
6 8 9 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

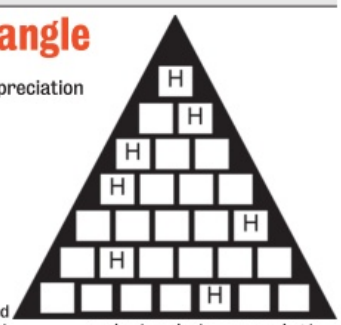
Differences: 1. Bag is smaller. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Window is smaller. 4. Dog is moved. 5. Hair is different. 6. Coat collar is different.

Riddler

What connects these four things?
Apollo Kings Fantastic District

Alpha triangle

1 8th letter
2 Expression of appreciation
3 Did possess
4 Principal
5 Demise
6 Melted
7 Kept an eye on



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

WE AIN'T NO BLASTID FISH! WE IS PEOPLES!
I INFORMED OUR KING THAT STRANGERS FROM THE SEA WERE COMING ASHORE!
OUR GREAT AND MIGHTY KING SAYS IF YOU CAME OUT OF WATER YOU ARE FISH!
MOVE ALONG!
?
?
?

Bizarrotrip

©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Wayno & PIRARO 4-29-24
The tech will draw a blood sample and then you're done.
HEMOGOBLIN
BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WHEW! ARE YOU TWO OKAY? SORRY WE ALMOST GOT CAUGHT FIXING THAT POTHOLE!
WHEW!
SORRY?! THAT WAS GREAT! RUNNING FROM THE COPS! WHAT A RUSH!!
SSHH!!
SORRY!
@COMICS.COM/HARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

YOU LOOK FAMILIAR...
WAIT, I KNOW... YOU'RE THE SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER...
DRUMS ALONG THE SIDELINES
WHO DROVE OUR BAND TO THE WRONG SCHOOL FOR A FOOTBALL GAME!
EH, THAT WAS WAY BACK BEFORE GPS!
4-29
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a good day. Situations are now okay, but you are advised not to take life as a burden. You should try to sustain yourself in unavoidable situations. You may face some difficulties in making easy gains. Somehow, blessings from elders may help you come out of this situation. Your confusion in choosing targets may now be over.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be a victim of mood swings, and your patience may be tested many times. Silly mistakes make you confused about your work and leave tasks incomplete. Lovebirds may find themselves confused in terms of feelings. More expectations may affect your emotional attachment to your spouse. You are advised to take care of your parents. Students may lose their concentration.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, with the help of your subordinate staff, you may be able to complete postponed projects. Your network may be boosted now, which may help you in your work or social life. You may plan to go on an outing with friends or siblings. Some disputes with neighbours may be resolved now. Students are advised to overcome laziness and carelessness.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may spend money on your family issues. It may affect your financial health. You are advised to avoid spending money on worthless things. You may think twice before acting. It is advised to control your straightforwardness to maintain harmony in your domestic and professional lives.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today is a good day for you. You may have a positive environment around you after hearing some good news from your siblings. Jobseekers may get a good job. Spiritual energy may help you make the right decision. Your focus on your goal will be clear now. Students may have good focus in their studies.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dull, and you may likely find yourself standing at a crossroads. You may criticise yourself; you may find it difficult to take some important decisions, which may be a reason for your lack of self-confidence. It may affect your social image around you. It is advised to follow your intuition before making an important decision. It is advised to drive safely and to avoid adventure tourism.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is important in terms of gains. You may get results with less effort. Your losses may be converted into profits with the help of your intelligence. You may plan to get into some academics. You may donate some amount to a religious place or charity. You may also help a needy person. Some investment in intellectual assets may be possible. Students may do better.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your performance may be very good in terms of your profession; you may have the full support of your boss or senior, and you are likely to get new opportunities. You may expect to get a new job as well. Job seekers may find a suitable job. Singles will find their love at their workplace.

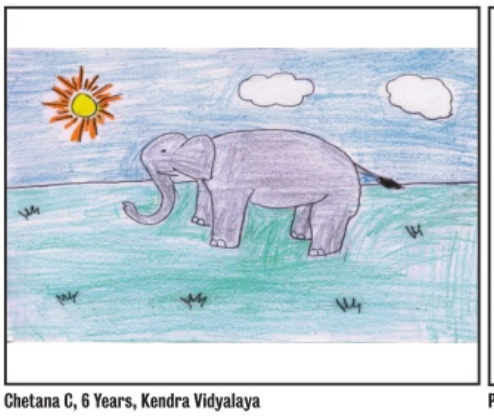
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your destiny may be with you. You can manage things easily; it may boost your confidence; and you may plan to visit some spiritual place. You are likely to donate some amount to religious activity or to some charity. You may expect a short business trip. Blessings from elders may bring peace of mind. Lovebirds may get some help from family members in terms of marriage.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may feel dull, and you may have some small health-related issues that may affect your daily routine. You may explore and analyse yourself to figure out your negativities. You may feel alone while sitting in a crowd, and your focus may be lost. In the late evening, with the help of elders, you may overcome this messy situation.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may get some business orders that may be profitable in the near future. You may implement some new ideas in your work. New partnerships may come into play. You may be busy with your work, which may make you mentally tired. This may affect your domestic life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may perform well in your job, your colleagues may cooperate with you, your performance in the job may be good, and you may be able to complete your postponed projects on time. You may lend money for investment purposes. A job seeker may get a new job. There may be positive news for the natives affected by old health issues.

KIDZONE



Chetana C, 6 Years, Kendra Vidyalaya

Prerana G, 6 Years, Carmel School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
1+3+5+7+9=25
Remove 5 and
sum=20
Digits are 1, 3, 7 & 9
1+3=4 so 1 & 4 are
93+71=164
unit digits.
91+73=164
93+71=22
Jim-Bob=22
Jim is 93
Bob is 71

BULL'S EYE
feed, feel, fled, flee, flesh, FLESHED, self, shelf

STRIKE OUT

L	O	C	U	S	T		C	I	C	A	D	A		
I	A		O	U	G	H	T		C		R			
O	F	F	E	N	D		O	I	L	C	A	N		
N		T		S	O	A	K	S		E		I		
E	R	A	S		R	E	E		O	D	I	C		
L	I	N	E	D		O		A	R	E	C	A		
S	L	Y	L	Y		I		P	I	A	N	O		
A		A	R	C	L	A	M	P		I				
U	S	E	S		U	A	E		N	O	G	O		
P		L		A	N	N	A	L		R		D		
I	N	L	A	I	D		R	E	N	T	A	L		
N		E		D	I	A	N	A		A		E		
O	F		F	E	N	D		O	I	L	C	A	N	
I	A		O	U	G	H	T		C		R			

FAST FIVE

B	O	S	K	S
M	E	A	N	T
U	N	R	I	P
R	O	U	T	E
C	R	A	S	S

QUICK

S	P	R	I	N	T		R	E	S	T	E	D		
			O											
	S	T	R	I	K	I	N	G		D	E	B	T	
			N		M		H		A			M	A	
			D	O	S		A	S	P	H	A	L	T	C
			E		R		L				R		A	I
	T	R	E	M	O	R		O	F	F	E	N	D	
			A		D		I				N		R	E
	R	U	R	V	A	S	H	I		T	A	D		
	E		A		T		C		Y		T			
	D	A	R	E		A	T	T	E	S	T	E	D	
	O		A		I				P	L	E	D	G	E
M	E	M	O	I	R		R	E	S	T	E	D		

MENSA PUZZLE
waving-goodbye

RIDDLER
Thay are all the names of movies minus the numbers in their original titles.

QUOTE UNCODE
He that will not sail until all dangers are over, will never put to sea.

SUDOKU

1	5	4	7	9	2	8	3	6
2	8	3	4	6	5	7	1	9
6	7	9	3	1	8	4	2	5
9	4	1	8	2	6	3	5	7
7	6	8	5	4	3	1	9	2
3	2	5	1	7	9	6	4	8
5	1	2	6	8	4	9	7	3
8	3	7	9	5	1	2	6	4
4	9	6	2	3	7	5	8	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, Ah, Had, Hadn, Thawed, Watched.

GO FIGURE
3 + 2 + 3 x 1 = 8
Easy
6 x 6 / 4 + 9 = 18
Medium
6 x 9 - 6 + 8 = 56
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

	9	5					9	4
	7	4					7	1	8
	8	9	6				3	1	2
		7	3	2			7	6	9
		8	9	6			8	9	6
		9	6	8			9	5	1
			1	4	9				
			2	1	3				
			4	3	1				
			9	2	1				
			3	1	2				

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Hair decision— Janhvi Kapoor has committed to never going bald for a role, honouring the memory of her late mother, Sridevi. She has explained that her decision is influenced by Sridevi's pride in her long hair, which she chooses to maintain in her mom's memory

Vivienne has a new role

Vivienne Jolie-Pitt, the 16-year-old daughter of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, is marking her foray into the theatre world with a new role as an usher.

Recently, she was spotted assisting at the reunion concert for 'Reefer Madness: The Musical' in Los

Angeles, reported E! News.

Vivienne, who has shown a growing interest in theatre, was seen guiding patrons to their seats and engaging with other staff members.

This recent appearance follows her and her mother's attendance at the opening night of the musical revival two months prior.

The show's new run in Los Angeles is being produced by Kristen Bell, who also starred in its New York production. Angelina Jolie has previously shared that Vivienne has a deep appreciation for theater.

—IANS

Armed and serious

Kartik Aaryan has shared why filmmaker Anees Bazmee wielded a sword at the Bollywood actor, and the reason is hilarious.

Kartik took to his Instagram stories, where he shared a monochrome picture of Bazmee sitting while holding a sword. The picture seems to be taken from the sets of his upcoming film 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3'.

Sharing the reason why Bazmee is holding the weapon, Kartik hilariously wrote: "When I say 15 ghante ho gaye sir ghar jane do. @aneesbazmee #BhoolBhulaiyaa3."

Kartik has often shared glimpses from the sets of the upcoming film, which also stars Triptii Dimri and Vidya Balan.

In May, the 'Chandu Champion' star shared a video from 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3' sets with Rajpal Yadav grooving to the song 'Satyanaas' from the sports drama film directed by Kabir Khan.

Details about the film are still under wraps. 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3' is the third installment of the Hindi horror-comedy franchise film 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa', which was first released in 2007 and had Akshay Kumar and Vidya in the lead role along with Shiney Ahuja, Ameesha Patel, Manoj Joshi and Rajpal Yadav in key roles.

The 2007 film was directed by Priyadarshan. The second part released in 2022 and featured Kiara Advani and Tabu alongside Kartik.. —IANS

CO-STAR SHINE

Samantha and Varun are all praise for each other after their series outing

Ever since 'Citadel: Honey Bunny' has been announced, fans have been eagerly waiting for its release. During a press meet for the series, Samantha shared her experience of working with Varun Dhawan, who in turn, called her an inspiration.

The recently unveiled teaser highlights Samantha and Varun in intense action roles. Shedding light on the prep for the series, Varun mentioned that his preparation was relatively easier as compared to Samantha's. He said, "I think it is public knowledge what she was battling when she got on the show. And you know I would think I had it hard when I started rehearsing stuff, but when I would see the kind of work ethic this girl had, what she was actually battling really inspired me."

Samantha described their collaboration as a partnership and said, "It was a partnership, like when we'd do action, it really felt like a dance. It felt like, you know, we discussed this, action felt like a romantic song because there was just so much sync. I've never had so much sync because well Raj and DK being Raj and DK, they love long long shots, they don't say cut." 'Citadel: Honey Bunny' will also feature an 11-12 minute action sequence featuring the leads. Hailing her co-star, Samantha added, "From the time he wakes up, he has only one thought and that is how do I do this scene better? He is always focusing on how to do his job better."

Samantha added that Varun Dhawan is one of the nicest human beings she has ever met. She highlighted his wonderful sense of humor and his ability to ensure that everyone on set is happy. "He is always smiling, there is never a rough day," Samantha concluded. —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Comeback trail

Girija Shettar, who debuted as a heroine in Telugu movie Geethanjali more than three decades ago, will be seen in a key role in Kannada movie Ibbani Thabbida Ileyali. Girija is playing the mother of the heroine in the film starring Vihaan and Ankita Amar.

"I watched Geethanjali directed by great director Mani Ratnam. I was impressed by Girija's performance in that movie. I thought Girija is the right actor to play the heroine's mother in Ibbani Thabbida Ileyali. Initially, Girija did not evince interest to act in movies as she stopped acting in movies more than 20 years ago. I sent the script (translated into English) to her. She agreed after going through it. She has also attended a 10-day workshop and participated in the shooting for 12 days," said director Chandrajith Belliappa.

Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali is the maiden movie for Chandrajith Belliappa as an independent director of a feature movie.

Motion poster out

The team of movie Full Meals conveyed birthday greetings to Likith Shetty by releasing the motion poster of the movie. Likith is playing the lead apart from bankrolling the movie. The poster has created a lot of buzz and received good feedback.

"The shoot of the movie and most of the post-production work, except re-recording, is completed. We are contemplating to release this movie in a few months. The movie revolves around a wedding photographer. It is an out and out entertainment movie and I am confident audiences will support it," said Likith.

N Vinayak from Chitradurga makes debut as a director in Sandalwood with this film. "Prior to this I worked as an associate director for a few Kannada movies. This movie will provide full entertainment for all types of audiences. I am very happy with the hero and two heroines who worked hard during the shooting," said Vinayak.

Harish Gowda wrote the dialogues while Manohar Joshi worked behind the camera for this movie. Guru Kiran has scored music while Deepu S Kumar worked as an editor and Vishwas Kashyap as an art director.